

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 9

Introduced by Assembly Member Shirley Horton

February 22, 2005

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 9— Relative to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 9, as introduced, Shirley Horton. Transportation infrastructure finance.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that will ensure that California receives a more equitable distribution of federal tax dollars for transportation funding and a higher rate of return in terms of federal money received per dollar of federal tax paid.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Through borders, ports, rail, and highway
2 corridors, California’s transportation system supports the
3 mobility of goods and people, creates jobs directly and
4 throughout the economy, and leverages local and federal
5 resources for critical mobility and air quality projects; and
6 WHEREAS, California cannot continue to sustain its
7 competitiveness, economy, and quality of life without
8 maintaining and expanding its transportation infrastructure. Only
9 through major, predictable investments in all aspects of the
10 state’s transportation system, including, but not limited to,
11 monitoring, maintenance and rehabilitation, traffic operations,
12 traffic management, and road and transit capacity enhancement,
13 can California protect its position in the national marketplace and
14 global economy; and

1 WHEREAS, As a matter of equity, California should receive a
2 greater share of federal funding because the state faces unique
3 demands in homeland security, transportation, Medi-Cal, child
4 care, and in incarcerating illegal aliens convicted of crimes; and

5 WHEREAS, California has been a “donor” to the federal
6 budget since 1986, when it began getting less money back than it
7 sent to Washington. A return rate for California of 98 cents per
8 dollar in 1994 has dropped steadily since then, reaching a low of
9 78 cents in 2003, according to the latest available data; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2003, California sent \$50.6 billion more to
11 Washington in federal taxes than the state received in federal
12 spending. The rate of return for California in 2003 ranked 43rd in
13 terms of federal money received per dollar of federal tax paid.
14 New Mexico ranked number one with \$1.99 per dollar sent to
15 Washington. New Jersey was in last place with 57 cents per
16 dollar in federal taxes; and

17 WHEREAS, Reauthorization of the next part of the federal
18 Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V (P.L.
19 108-310) continues to be a critical priority for California and
20 Governor Schwarzenegger’s administration continues to work on
21 this priority issue in partnership with California’s Congressional
22 delegation and the Bush administration to ensure that California
23 receives its fair share of federal transportation funding; and

24 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger and others argue that
25 California should get more federal money for having a greater
26 terrorist threat, bigger national transportation corridors, and
27 health funding formulas skewed by high per capita income; and

28 WHEREAS, The Governor’s proposed budget for 2005-06
29 notes that California represents more than 13.5 percent of the
30 nation’s Gross Domestic Product and that Californians are doing
31 more than their fair share to address transportation congestion
32 and the problem of shipping goods throughout the state by
33 passing local transportation sales tax initiatives and approving
34 ballot initiatives to commit the state’s gas tax revenues to
35 transportation, but that the state still receives less than 10 percent
36 of federal highway funding; and

37 WHEREAS, The Governor announced in releasing his
38 proposed budget for 2005-06 that he will make it a top priority to
39 work with California’s bipartisan delegation to increase federal
40 investment in the national transportation program and a share for

1 California that more appropriately reflects the state's contribution
2 to the economy and our trade system; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
4 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States
6 to enact legislation that will ensure that California receives a
7 more equitable distribution of federal tax dollars for
8 transportation funding and a higher rate of return in terms of
9 federal money received per dollar of federal tax paid; and be it
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
12 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of
13 the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of
14 Representatives, to the Majority Leader in the Senate, to each
15 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of
16 the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.